

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JAMES C. MCCURDY,  
Plaintiff,

v.

THOMAS,  
Defendant.

Case No. 18-06232 BLF (PR)

**ORDER OF SERVICE ON  
DEFENDANT THOMAS; STRIKING  
ALL OTHER CLAIMS AND  
DEFENDANTS; DIRECTING  
DEFENDANT TO FILE  
DISPOSITIVE MOTION OR  
NOTICE REGARDING SUCH  
MOTION; INSTRUCTIONS TO  
CLERK**

Plaintiff, a California inmate, filed the instant *pro se* civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against a medical official at Pelican Bay State Prison (“PBSP”).<sup>1</sup> The only claim in this action is the claim against Defendant Thomas of PBSP. Accordingly, all other claims are ordered STRICKEN from the complaint, (Docket No. 1). Plaintiff’s motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* will be addressed in a separate order.

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<sup>1</sup> In a previously filed action, the Court found Plaintiff failed to exhaust all but two claims against two separate defendants. *See McCurdy v. Rivero*, Case No. 17-01043 BLF (PR), (Docket No. 104). In accordance with Plaintiff’s wishes, the claim against Defendant Thomas was ordered severed and filed as a separate action. *Id.*, (Docket No. 107). The Clerk opened the matter as the instant action, with the “amended” complaint” from the earlier action being the operative complaint in this action. (Docket No. 2.)

## DISCUSSION

### A. Standard of Review

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *See id.* § 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se pleadings must, however, be liberally construed. *See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *See West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

### B. Plaintiff's Claims

Plaintiff arrived at PBSP on April 18, 2016. (Am. Compl. at 41, 53.) Plaintiff claims that Defendant Thomas improperly discontinued his medications, (*id.* at 41-42, 51-52), denied him a medical diet and referral to a dietician, (*id.* at 42, 53), and refused to present his case to PBSP's pain management committee, (*id.* at 42). Liberally construed, Plaintiff's states a cognizable claim for deliberate indifference to serious medical needs, *see Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 104 (1976); *McGuckin v. Smith*, 974 F.2d 1050, 1059 (9th Cir. 1992), overruled on other grounds, and for inhumane prison conditions, *see Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 832 (1994); *Helling v. McKinney*, 509 U.S. 25, 31 (1993).

Furthermore, the issue of exhaustion as to this claim has already been thoroughly adjudicated in the previous action. *See supra* at 1, fn. 1. Accordingly, the Court takes judicial notice of that fact in this matter. *See* Fed. R. Evid. 201(b)(1)-(2). Accordingly, the Court will not entertain any motion for summary judgment based on a failure to exhaust.

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**CONCLUSION**

For the reasons state above, the Court orders as follows:

1. The only claim in this action is the deliberate indifference claim against Defendant Thomas at PBSP. All other claims involving other Defendants are hereby STRICKEN from the complaint.

2. The Clerk of the Court shall mail a Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of Service of Summons, two copies of the Waiver of Service of Summons, a copy of the amended complaint, (Docket No. 11), all attachments thereto, and a copy of this order upon **Defendant L. Thomas at Pelican Bay State Prison (P. O. Box 7000, Crescent City, CA 95531-7000)**. The Clerk shall also mail a copy of this Order to Plaintiff.

3. Defendants are cautioned that Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires them to cooperate in saving unnecessary costs of service of the summons and the complaint. Pursuant to Rule 4, if Defendants, after being notified of this action and asked by the Court, on behalf of Plaintiff, to waive service of the summons, fail to do so, they will be required to bear the cost of such service unless good cause shown for their failure to sign and return the waiver form. If service is waived, this action will proceed as if Defendants had been served on the date that the waiver is filed, except that pursuant to Rule 12(a)(1)(B), Defendants will not be required to serve and file an answer before **sixty (60) days** from the day on which the request for waiver was sent. (This allows a longer time to respond than would be required if formal service of summons is necessary.) Defendants are asked to read the statement set forth at the foot of the waiver form that more completely describes the duties of the parties with regard to waiver of service of the summons. If service is waived after the date provided in the Notice but before Defendants have been personally served, the Answer shall be due sixty (60) days from the date on which the request for waiver was sent or twenty (20) days from the date the waiver form is filed, whichever is later.

a. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Defendants are advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If any Defendant is of the opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, he shall so inform the Court prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due.

5. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court and served on Defendants no later than **twenty-eight (28) days** from the date Defendants' motion is filed.

6. Defendants *shall* file a reply brief no later than **fourteen (14) days** after Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

1           7.       The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due.  
2       No hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

3           8.       All communications by the Plaintiff with the Court must be served on  
4       Defendants, or Defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true  
5       copy of the document to Defendants or Defendants' counsel.

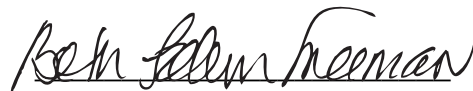
6           9.       Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil  
7       Procedure. No further court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or Local  
8       Rule 16-1 is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

9           10.      It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the  
10      court informed of any change of address and must comply with the court's orders in a  
11      timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to  
12      prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

13          11.      Extensions of time must be filed no later than the deadline sought to be  
14      extended and must be accompanied by a showing of good cause.

15                   **IT IS SO ORDERED**

16      Dated: March 28, 2019

  
BETH LABSON FREEMAN  
United States District Judge